









SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOARD OF GUARDIANS  
OF THE  
CHICAGO REFORM SCHOOL  
TO THE  
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO,  
FOR  
THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1863.

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CHICAGO:

S. P. ROUNDS, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER, 46 STATE STREET.

1863.



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CONTENTS

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

THE NATURE OF THE

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE

RESPIRATORY AND CIRCULATORY

SYSTEMS IN THE HUMAN BODY

BY

DR. J. H. GREEN



## OFFICERS.

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### BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

HON. MARK SKINNER,	ELISHA S. WADSWORTH,
HENRY SMITH,	JABEZ K. BOTSFORD,
JOSEPH H. GRAY,	A. G. THROOP,
S. D. WARD, until amendment of Charter.	
S. S. HAYES, after	“ “ “

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### SUPERINTENDENT.

GEO. W. PERKINS.

### PHYSICIAN.

JOSEPH P. ROSS.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



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## GUARDIAN'S REPORT.

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*To the Hon. the Mayor and Aldermen, constituting the Common Council of the City of Chicago :*

By direction of the Board of Guardians of the Reform School, the undersigned respectfully present to your honorable body, the accompanying report of George W. Perkins, Esq., Superintendent, &c., for the year ending on the first day of April, A. D., 1863.

In placing this report in your hands, the Board of Guardians cannot permit the occasion to pass without expressing the gratification experienced in consequence of the satisfactory condition of the School, not only at the present time, but at all times during the past year. The management of the Institution by its Superintendent, has in all departments met the approval and the wish of the Board at all times. In the substantial reformation of large numbers of the inmates of the school during the past year, a reformation that promises to be life-long, the public at large have satisfactory evidence of the character of the management, and practical results of the institution. When it is borne in mind that the sole object of the school is to accomplish the reformation of its inmates, it is certainly an encouraging fact that whilst on the one hand ninety-seven (97) boys have entered within the last year, on the other hand fifty-one (51) boys have been honorably discharged as reformed. It is probably too much to expect that every lad leaving as reformed, will remain proof against all future temptation, but so much care is taken in regard to final

discharges from the school, that the Board of Guardians feel a strong conviction that the numbers relapsing will not prove more than the average of boys in common life, that turn out unfortunately from an equal number of boys of ordinarily good habits and principles.

During the past year two comfortable brick buildings have been erected for the use of the school, one of which is intended for the small boys, not yet arrived to years of moral accountability, or who are sent to the school for want of proper parental care, and have no confirmed evil habits, and the other for the more incorrigible and ungovernable of the scholars. Just at the time these buildings were completed and in a condition to be occupied, the large building erected in the summer of 1858, casually took fire and was wholly destroyed. In this building the Superintendent resided, as also the boys who had arrived at the grade of honor,—the last stage of the scholar's advancement previous to being discharged. Here also, in the upper story, was the Chapel, where the religious and Sabbath school exercises were had, and in the basement was the store room of the establishment, the general kitchen and the root cellars. The loss of this building seriously embarrasses the conduct of the affairs of the institution and renders it absolutely necessary that new buildings for the accommodation of the Superintendent and family, for the boys in the grade of honor, and to be used as a school house, chapel, and store-house should be erected at the earliest practicable moment. Fortunately the building destroyed was insured in a reasonable though not a full amount, and the insurance money having been collected and paid in to the Reform School account, in the City Treasury, now lies ready to be used for replacing the needed buildings. It will, in the judgment of the Board, be nearly sufficient to meet the whole expense that may be incurred for the purpose.

It is a source of congratulation that notwithstanding the great enhancement in the cost of clothing, and of all articles of living, the average cost for the support of the scholars is but very little more than during the previous year, being only

about 54 cents increase. The earnings of the boys are now getting to be noticeable, and it is believed that from this time forward a considerable revenue will accrue from this source, and that without trenching on the school hours, or diminishing in any degree the time properly allotted to the boys for recreation.

The Board of Guardians respectfully add that the plans and arrangements for a Reform School for Girls will soon be laid before the Council for its approval.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Board,

MARK SKINNER, *President.*

JOSEPH H. GRAY, *Secretary.*

CHICAGO, April 1, 1863.



# SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

# CHICAGO REFORM SCHOOL.

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*To the Board of Guardians :*

GENTLEMEN :—It becomes my duty at this time to present you the Seventh Annual Report of this Institution containing an account of its affairs and management to the present time.

Total number of inmates received into the Institution since its opening, Nov. 30th, 1855,.....	711
No. in connection with school, April 1, '62.....	219
“ committed during the year,.....	93
“ re-committed during the year,.....	3
“ returned for a home,.....	1
“ runaways returned,.....	11
	<hr/>
TOTAL,.....	327
“ discharged because improperly committed,.....	1
“ discharged on order of the court,.....	4
“ returned as incorrigible,.....	1
“ escaped,.....	20
“ honorably discharged,.....	51
“ in connection with the school, March 31, 1863, ..	250
	<hr/>
TOTAL,.....	327
Of the number in connection with the school, there are employed in the different work departments, .	172
No. absent on monthly tickets of leave,.....	78
	<hr/>
TOTAL,.....	250

There have been committed during the different months, as follows :

April, 1862,	6
May, “	13
June, “	5
July, “	13
Aug., “	8
Sept., “	3
Oct., “	13
Nov., “	6
Dec., “	2
Jan., 1863,	8
Feb., “	13
March, “	7
	—
TOTAL,	97

Those committed, confessed to grand larceny,	10
Petit larceny,	45
Vagrancy,	13
Homeless,	11
Intemperance,	4
Truancy,	7
Uncontrollable,	6
Arson,	1
	—
TOTAL,	97

Their occupation was, news boys,	12
Pedlars,	6
Attended School,	20
Worked on farm,	6
Roamed in street,	15
Thieving,	4
Office boys,	4
Errand boys,	11
Carrying in coal,	4
Herding cattle,	2



Tending saloon,.....	3
Worked in hotel,.....	2
Drummer boys,.....	2
Worked in planing mill,.....	2
Driving on canal,.....	1
Worked in tobacco factory,.....	1
Painter,.....	1
Train boy on rail road,.....	1
	—
TOTAL,.....	97

The nationality of those committed is :

Illinois,.....	28
Massachusetts,.....:	1
New York,.....	18
Pennsylvania,.....	3
Michigan,.....	2
Ohio,.....	5
Indiana,.....	5
Maine,.....	2
Connecticut,.....	2
New Hampshire,.....	1
Wisconsin,.....	1
Louisiana,.....	2
Alabama,.....	1
Missouri,.....	1
Ireland,.....	5
Germany,.....	4
England,.....	7
Canada,.....	7
Unknown,.....	2
	—
TOTAL,.....	97

Their parentage is as follows :

Irish,.....	47
German,.....	6
English,.....	15

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Scotch, .....	2
French, .....	2
American, .....	20
Jew, .....	1
African, .....	3
Bohemian, .....	1
	—
TOTAL, .....	97

Their ages were :

Six years of age, .....	2
Seven, “ “ .....	3
Eight, “ “ .....	3
Nine, “ “ .....	6
Ten, “ “ .....	13
Eleven, “ “ .....	13
Twelve, “ “ .....	11
Thirteen, “ “ .....	14
Fourteen, “ “ .....	16
Fifteen, “ “ .....	9
Sixteen, “ “ .....	4
Seventeen, “ “ .....	3
	—
TOTAL, .....	97

As to the social condition of their homes :

Had lost both parents, .....	11
“ “ their father, .....	29
“ “ their mother, .....	18
“ step parents, .....	23
“ intemperate parents, .....	4
“ “ fathers, .....	24
“ “ mothers, .....	7
“ parents in bridewell or prison, .....	6
Parents kept saloon, .....	4
“ quarrelled, .....	13
“ were religious, .....	4
Had fathers in the army, .....	14

The three boys re-committed during the past year had all been previously discharged by order of the Court.

The average age of those committed is 12 years 00 months and 29 days.

The average number in connection with the School during the year is..... 274

Average number engaged in Departments of work on the premises..... 173

Those discharged have been in connection with the School an average of 2 years 7 months and 15 days; the length of time our inmates remain in connection with the School is much longer than usual, owing to the peculiar manner of discharging which we have practiced for the past two years. This plan of granting Monthly Tickets of leave to those who go out from the School for a year or more previous to their discharge, has continued to meet with the same success as noted in our last Report.

Last year we reported two less received into the School during eighteen months than was previously reported for a year, but this year, notwithstanding the continued watchfulness and carefulness of our Commissioner, we have had about the same number committed in a year that we previously reported for eighteen months.

We report a much larger number in connection with the School now than at any previous time since its organization, yet we have discharged nearly as many more as were discharged last year.

## WORK DEPARTMENTS.

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The average number of boys employed in different departments of the institution has been as follows :

Contract Shoe Shop.....	28
Our Own Shoe Shop.....	14
Tailor Shop.....	21
Knitting Room.....	36
Farm.....	21
Dormitories.....	9
Bakery and Kitchen.....	5
Laundry.....	11
Whitewashing and Painting.....	3
Dining Rooms.....	6
General Work.....	19
	173

In the Laundry there has been washed and ironed 57,229 pieces.

In the Knitting Room the boys have made 220 pairs of stockings, and repaired 2,172 pair ; also picked hair for and filled 2,321 pillows.

### TAILOR SHOP.

ARTICLES.	MADE.	MENDED.
Jackets.....	142	604
Pairs Pants.....	466	1037
“ Suspenders.....	1101	
Caps.....	90	98

Shirts.....	516	1659
Mattress Ticks.....	1811	181
Pillow Cases.....	138	58
Window Curtains.....	38	16
Aprons.....	53	72
Sheets.....	22	71
Pillow Slips.....	104	109
Towels.....	119	71
Spreads.....	11	29
Blankets.....		35
Mosquito Nets.....	1977	

## OUR OWN SHOE SHOP.

Pairs of Boys Shoes Made.....	69
“ Mens’ “.....	70
“ Women’s “.....	101
“ Boots “.....	9
“ Shoes Mended.....	745
“ Boots “.....	40

## CONTRACT SHOE SHOP.

Pairs of Women’s Shoes bottomed.....	12072
“ Misses’ “.....	2400
“ Children’s “.....	1152
Total No. of “.....	15624

## GARDEN AND FARM.

## ARTICLES PRODUCED.

Bushels of Potatoes.....	359
“ Peas.....	12
“ Navy Beans.....	32
“ Carrots.....	22
“ Tomatoes.....	16
“ Cucumbers.....	13
“ Onions.....	112
“ Bush Beans.....	8
“ Parsnips.....	19

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Bushels of Sweet Corn.....	28
“ Beets.....	26
“ Turnips.....	20
Heads of Cabbage.....	1516
Pumpkins and Squashes.....	376
Tons of Hay.....	9
Pounds of Pork.....	1364
“ Veal.....	182

The amount earned by the Boys on work, aside from that required for themselves, is as follows :

In Knitting room.....	\$267 64
Tailor Shop.....	198 95
Our Own Shoe Shop.....	201 43
Contract Shoe Shop.....	521 90
Farm Cultivating Willows.....	30 00
Total .....	<hr/> \$1219 92

We are again enabled to report an improvement in our Work Departments over any previous year, both in the amount of work accomplished, and the compensation received for the same. In July 1862, a contract was made with Messrs. McDougal, Nicholas & Co., by which they agreed to employ thirty or more boys at Shoe making. They commenced July 10th with twelve boys; the work began slowly at first, and the time required to build a shop room and arrange everything necessary for working the number of boys required has in reality left us less than half the year in which we have received any remuneration on this contract.

In July we changed our working time from five to six hours.

The short contract for work made the fore part of the year while affording a small remuneration to the School, served to furnish employment sufficient for the boys.

During the year our work departments have assumed a much more permanent character than ever before, and the boys have made corresponding advancement in steady habits, and in acquiring a knowledge of the department of work in which they

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are employed. To many of the boys who have gone out from the School the improved facilities thus afforded them have been very advantageous, they being enabled thereby to earn from three to seven dollars per week. Still more may be and I trust will be done, during another year, to make this branch of our School beneficial to the boys.

## FINANCES.

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Inventory of Furniture and Stores on hand March 31st,  
1863:

Family No. 2 Furniture.....	\$ 737 67	
“ “ 3 “ .....	466 35	
Office and Library Furniture.....	215 10	
School Books and Furniture.....	273 52	
Dining Room Furniture.....	133 00	
Dormitory Bedding and Furniture.....	839 25	
Clothing.....	1,596 95	
Shoe Shop Furniture and Tools.....	280 03	
Bath Room and Warming Room.....	80 43	
Boy's Kitchen Furniture.....	49 07	
Laundry Furniture.....	77 12	
Carpenter's Tools and Lumber.....	255 19	
Farming Tools.....	110 05	
Officers Dep. Bedding and Furniture	895 82	
Hospital and Medicine Room.....	133 44	
Tailor Shop Stock and Furniture.....	139 69	
Store Room.....	3,072 81	
Farm Stock.....	231 75	
Fuel .....	22 50	
Manure.....	80 00	
Willows.....	40 00	\$9,729 74



Our expenditures for the year have been as follows :

### PROVISIONS.

Flour.....	\$1,800 79
Corn Meal.....	57 42
Molasses .....	650 88
Codfish.....	11 45
Tea.....	123 20
Rice.....	28 61
Coffee.....	264 12
Saleratus, Cream, Tartar and Soda..	20 60
Sugar.....	310 27
Salt Pork.....	160 75
Fresh Meat.....	742 44
Butter.....	277 18
Vinegar.....	24 66
Salt.....	31 92
Hominy.....	25 00
Beans.....	57 10
Small Groceries.....	4 98
Potatoes and Vegetables.....	133 43
Bread.....	319 25
Hops.....	4 80
Pepper.....	17 90
Matches .....	2 72
Ginger.....	1 40
Allspice .....	6 00
Mustard.....	5 00
Lard.....	36 73
Starch .....	8 40
Nutmegs.....	2 00
Cassia.....	3 65
	<hr/>
	\$5,132 65

### CLOTHING.

Shirting.....	583 73
Buttons .....	45 86

Thread.....	135 13	
Drills and Denims.....	177 15	
Satinetts and Cassimeres.....	1,003 31	
Wadding.....	24 00	
Linseys, Linings and Canvas.....	155 43	
Hats, Caps and Trimming.....	43 75	
		<hr/>
		2,173 36

## HOUSEHOLD DRY GOODS.

Cravats.....	15 00	
Sheeting.....	306 32	
Ticking.....	262 89	
Table Linen.....	68 00	
Crash.....	54 60	
Pins, Needles, Combs and Thimbles...	16 22	
		<hr/>
		\$708 03

## FURNITURE.

Beds and Bedding.....	694 41	
Stoves and Pipe.....	717 18	
Crockery and Glassware.....	117 43	
Wooden Ware.....	56 05	
Curtains and Fixtures.....	21 75	
Cutlery.....	54 86	
Lamps and Lanterns.....	80 86	
School Books and Furniture.....	13 05	
Hardware.....	43 14	
Carpenters' Tools.....	5 73	
Farming Tools.....	68 31	
Bureaus, Tables and Chairs.....	141 30	
Door Matts.....	15 50	
Carpeting.....	126 92	
Dining Room and Kitchen Furniture.	48 82	
Tin Ware.....	120 24	
Coal Hods and Seives.....	32 63	
Brooms and Brushes.....	77 70	
Mirrors.....	16 13	
1 Clothes Wringer.....	6 50	
		<hr/>
		\$2,458 51

## OFFICERS' SALARIES.

Superintendent .....	}	\$4,940 12
Matron .....		
Three Teachers .....		
Clerk .....		
Matron Family No. 2 .....		
Overseer in Yard .....		
“ “ Shoe Shops .....		
“ “ Tailor “ .....		
“ on Farm .....		
Watchman .....		
Cook and Baker .....		
Laundress .....		

## GENERAL EXPENSES.

Shoe Shop Stock and Tools .....	504 91
Kerosene and Lard Oil .....	227 73
Woolen Yarn .....	84 10
Stationery .....	86 79
Festivals, .....	37 35
Soap .....	328 51
Manure .....	196 57
Fodder .....	118 08
Sundries .....	39 67
Bath Brick .....	1 50
Railroad Tickets and Livery .....	129 30
Medicine and Medical Attendance ....	28 60
Postage .....	16 00
Fuel .....	1,216 34
Teaming .....	185 83
Printing Annual Report, &c. ....	151 47
Legal Expenses .....	72 50
Garden Seeds and Plants .....	25 37
Funeral Expenses .....	19 900
Insurance .....	116 75
Reform School Commissioner .....	875 00
Live Stock .....	142 81
	<hr/>
	\$4,604 18

## IMPROVEMENTS.

Cost of erecting two Brick Buildings and Enclosing Yard around them.	\$10,302	32	
Depot Building.....	50	00	
Paints, Oil and Glass.....	164	96	
Lime and Stucco.....	61	00	
Lumber.....	237	53	
Plumbing.....	53	47	
Windmill, Tank and Well.....	909	91	
Hardware.....	124	19	
Services of a Mason, Plastering...	232	53	
“ Carpenters.....	861	38	
Brick.....	17	00	
Teaming.....	271	00	
Lightning Rods and fixing do.....	52	27	
Repairing Roofs.....	16	50	
Cutting Boiler for Well.....	2	50	
Ventilators.....	1	75	
Hanging Bell.....	5	00	\$13,363 31
			<hr/>
			\$33,380 16

## RECEIPTS.

Acc'ts Collected from last year...	\$357	65
Empty Barrels sold.....	27	12
Old Iron sold.....	13	33
Rags sold.....	13	00
Board of Workmen.....	140	00
Willows sold.....	30	00
Stockings “ • .....	7	12
Brick “ .....	1	60
Contract work.....	981	37
Work in own Shoe Shop.....	201	43
Acc't Collectd from Huntington, Wadsworth & Co.....	43	90
		<hr/>

\$1,816 52

The erection of the buildings for the two Divisions of the School, have necessarily made our expenditures for improvements much larger than usual. The destruction of one of our buildings by fire has also necessitated many changes and improvements which otherwise would not have occurred. Our total expenditure as shown by the

above table is.....	\$33,380 16
Deduct amount paid for Improve- ments.....	\$13,363 31
Deduct amount paid Commissioner.	875 00
Deduct amount of Receipts.....	1,816 52
“ “ lost in destruction of goods by fire.....	3,493 96 \$19,548 79
Leaves amount paid for current ex- penses.....	\$13,831 37

Making an average cost per capita as per current expenses of the School, for inmates on the premises of \$79 95. Our building and contents destroyed was insured for \$4,000, and the amount has been paid by the insurance companies into the hands of the Comptroller, for the purpose of applying towards the erection of another building, but the amount received for insurance not covering the cost of the building, we have no receipts towards replacing stores and furniture destroyed. While our current expenditures have been but slightly affected this year by the advance during the latter part of the year in almost all kinds of Clothing and Provisions, yet with our increase of numbers, and the continued increase of prices, it will require a larger estimate for expenditures than previously, to successfully maintain the School, and comfortably provide for its inmates.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

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In accordance with the recommendations of last year, two separate departments have been provided for a portion of the inmates. One where our smallest boys have a building and play ground exclusively to themselves. Another where boys who are disposed to do badly, and whose influence over the school is injurious, have a building and yard by themselves. January 1, 1863, the family of small boys consisting of thirty members, occupied the building designed for them, and in March, 1863, we occupied the building designed for the worst boys, commencing with nine. We have at the present time, in this family, eighteen. The building is designed to accommodate thirty. Although these divisions of the School are scarcely well established in their respective places, yet we already see benefit arising to them and to the whole School, which fully answer our expectations. December 18th, 1862, the building occupied by the Grade of Honor boys, officers of the School, and also used for our store rooms, caught fire in the roof from the burning of the chimney, while the boys were at dinner. The wind was very strong from the southwest. On first discovering the fire, every effort was made to extinguish the flames, but without avail, when the attention of all was given to saving as much from the building as could be reached, but so rapid was the progress of the flames that more than half the furniture and stores were destroyed with the building. Nothing was saved from our vegetable cellar, which contained all the products of the farm for the pre-

vious summer. But very little was saved from our grocery store room, while in our dry goods store room nearly all the summer clothing of the boys, and our stock of shoes on hand for the winter, together with quite a quantity of blankets and bedding were destroyed. In the upper portion of the building very little was saved of the clothing and furniture.

We have been seriously inconvenienced by the burning of this building, and many changes have necessarily been made in our other departments to accommodate the school. There is a pressing need of the immediate erection of a building for the boys in Grade of Honor, as also for accommodations for officers and workmen employed on the premises. Our work shops are also very much crowded, and the present size of our School, with its increasing numbers, make it imperative that more room should be provided for our present departments of work, or that a new shop be erected where the boys may be employed in some other branch of labor.

The Reports of our Commissioner continue to show the benefit to the School and to the community, of a special examination of all cases which it is thought belong to the School. One hundred and seventy-five cases have been presented to him during the year for examination, ninety-seven of which have been committed to the School. In some cases the parents or friends have, by these examinations, been incited to renewed efforts in a different way for the welfare of the boy which has resulted in his favor for good, as well as if he had been committed to the School. In others the boys have taken warning from the admonitions of the Commissioner and returned to their homes, believing, perhaps, what in their "*Young America Spirit*" they never believed, or heeded before, that the counsels and advice of those who were older had better be received and acted upon, while of those who are sent to the School the thorough examination which they receive, takes away all cause of complaint of the boys being "*sent for nothing.*"

September 10, 1862, we commenced the erection of a brick building 35X55 basement and two stories for family No. 2,

and a brick building 40X65 basement, and two stories for family No. 3, and for a shoe shop; they are now nearly completed. The main yard of our School has been extended one hundred and fifty feet west and over two hundred feet in width. A new well has been sunk near the Lake; a new mill for pumping water, erected in place of the old one, and an additional tank built at the mill capable of holding 1100 bbls of water. Pipes for carrying water and for drainage have been laid to and from the new buildings, beside these, many other minor improvements and changes have been made, too numerous to mention, but which have added greatly to the convenience and comfort of the School.

The Christian *Times*, Northwestern Christian *Advocate*, and Chicago Evening *Journal*, all published in the city, and the *Advocate* and *Guardian*, published in New York, have been furnished us regularly, through the kindness of the publishers. We have also received two hundred Hymn Books, from the Young Men's Christian Association, one hundred copies of the "Child at Home," from Tuthil King, one hundred and fifty Testaments from the Chicago Bible Society and a Minnie Rifle from Rev. E. Anderson, taken from the rebels at the battle of Pea Ridge.

For our Library we have received four volumes from Messrs. Tomlinson Brothers, eighteen volumes from Mrs. Dr. Shipman and fifty volumes from Flavel Moseley, Esq. We are also under obligations to the Illinois Central Railroad Company for cars furnished the school for conveyance to the city and back on the Fourth of July. All of these favors have, while affording happiness and enjoyment to the boys, helped to convince them of the deep interest in their welfare which is felt by many of our citizens.

We have continued during the year our system of trust and confidence in the boys, in the same manner as heretofore. Seventy-three boys were trusted to the city in April to spend Easter Sunday with their friends. Thirty-two were trusted to the city Christmas in the same manner. Fourth of July the whole school went to the city at 9½ o'clock in the morning,



and returned at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. We have also granted permission to the usual number of boys to visit their friends in the city.

At the time of the fire, the boys were pretty much under their own control for half a day; they behaved nobly, assisting in every way they could at the fire, not one offering to escape.

We have again been abundantly blessed by our Maker and Preserver in the school. Although there has been a great deal of sickness in the camps near us and in the city, never has the school enjoyed better health than during the past year. There has not been any deaths among the inmates, and but very few cases where a boy has been unwell enough to be confined to his bed. Mathias Maas, who has been out from the school for nearly two years, was brought back, during the month of January, for medical treatment; he failed rapidly after his return to the school and died March 4, 1863. The funeral services were held in the school room. He was a good boy, much beloved by his employer and by those in the school who knew him.

The usual care has been exercised that we have always been accustomed to do in reference to good sleeping apartments, cleanliness and recreation.

For the attainments of the boys in their studies, you are referred to the reports of our principal teacher, herewith presented.

While our teachers have manifested the same interest in the welfare and good of the boys as heretofore, yet the unsettled condition of everything in connection with the school since the middle of December, has rendered any permanent advancement during the last quarter of the year, almost impossible. Yet notwithstanding these difficulties, the boys have made good progress during the year, and through the energy and perseverance of our teachers, show proof that even the dull-est minds, so far as close application to anything is concerned, may, by kind and patient effort, be much improved.

Our regular services of the Sabbath and work day have

been maintained as usual. Since the loss of our chapel by fire we have used the school room. June 8, 1862, Mr. E. S. Williams took charge of the Sunday School, as its Superintendent, which position he still maintains. We have suffered much in our Sunday School interests during the year for the want of a sufficient number of teachers. Through the efforts of Mr. Williams, this deficiency, has, in a measure, been remedied, though we would gladly welcome to this faithful band, a number more of earnest workers. To Mr. Williams and the teachers who have been so constant in their attendance at the school and in their interest in the welfare of the boys, and to those who have assisted us in our Sunday morning service, we would again record our thanks, in which record many of the boys will most cordially join us.

The boys have enjoyed the usual number of holidays and festive occasions during the year. July 4th 1862, they arose at 5 o'clock, a general distribution of fire-works was made as soon as the boys had washed for breakfast. After breakfast we began to make preparations for going to the city, and at half-past nine the school, without an exception, marched to the depot and took the cars for the city. They were led by our own band. Quite a number of banners were carried by the boys; also, several standards of beautiful flowers, gathered by them and arranged for the occasion. They remained in the city until 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when we again took the cars for our home. Singing and martial music filled up the time pleasantly on our return trip.

As soon as we arrived at the school, the boys sat down to a dinner of pies, cakes, strawberries and cream, and after dinner, they proceeded to the lake, where they enjoyed themselves until nearly dark. On returning, they sang a few pieces in the grove, when we commenced making our arrangements for an exhibition of fire-works, provided by the officers for the evening. This entertainment occupied the time until nearly 10 o'clock, when the boys retired, singing, "no Flag but the Old Flag, the Red, White and Blue." The entertainment of the day passed off very pleasantly, and though the

boys were so fully trusted all day, there was not the least disposition on the part of any to abuse the confidence placed in them.

October 4, 1862, the Rail Mission Sunday School made us a visit. The boys marched to the depot to receive them, and escorted them to the chapel, where they entertained them with a concert of about an hour's duration, after which, apples and peaches, provided by the teachers in Railroad Mission, were freely distributed amongst both schools. At half-past four, the boys escorted their visitors back to the depot, and bid them farewell with three cheers.

Thanksgiving was spent as is usually our custom on this occasion. Services were held in the chapel in the morning at 11 o'clock. Rev. H. L. Hammond was present, and conducted the exercises. The usual dinner of roast turkey, roast beef, vegetables of all kinds, pies, &c., were furnished the boys in abundance, until from *force of circumstances* they were compelled to call for a change in the programme, when a short time was spent in singing patriotic pieces, and the exercises for the day closed. Many of the boys formerly in connection with the school spent the day with us on this occasion.

Christmas the boys occupied the day with games and amusements of different kinds, and New Year's the Superintendent and wife held their usual entertainment in their Rooms, until a happy greeting and a kind admonition had been given to each one of the boys as they called. In all of these festive occasions a great deal of pains is taken on the part of the officers of the School to produce the fullest amount of enjoyment, and strengthen the attachment between officer and pupil. Many of the boys who come to us during the year know very little of enjoyment in any way, only as it is mingled with degrading influences and habits, consequently these entertainments of the year can be, and are made elevating, as well as pleasing; inspiring a desire on the part of the boy for a different and more appropriate sphere of action when he again begins to mingle in the world for himself.

All through the progress of the war our boys have mani-

fested a very patriotic spirit. Fifty-six that have been in connection with the School are now in the army. With most of these we are in correspondence as frequently as their changing of localities will permit. Others, no doubt, are in the army whom we have not heard from. Of the fifty-six whom we know to have joined, four have been wounded in battle, others we fear from the non-receipt of letters lately, have fallen on the field, though we have no direct information that such is the case. Many of them have been in the prominent battles of the country; some have been promoted, and one has lately been placed upon Rosencrans roll of honor.

We have been visited this year by many of the boys who have gone out from the school during previous years. By their conduct and general appearance, and by the reports and letters received from others, we are satisfied that the great majority of those who have been honorably discharged from the school are doing well.

Our success in this respect has been much better than, owing to the unsettled and excitable state of the country, we had reason to expect.

Owing to the unsettled state of the country there has been more changes in our corps of officers and helpers than usual; those who have remained with us, and are acquainted with the duties required of them have rendered faithful and efficient service to the school, and have greatly assisted me in the duties which have crowded so closely upon me all the year round.

Permit me again, in this manner, to acknowledge your constant interest, as a board, in this institution, by your frequent visits and continued kind assistance, which collectively and individually you have during the past year, so fully manifested. I trust the influence thereby exerted over the future life of these boys may be such as shall abundantly recompense you for your endeavors to promote their welfare.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

GEO. W. PERKINS, *Superintendent.*

## TEACHER'S REPORT.

*To the Superintendent of the Chicago Reform School:*

SIR:—It becomes my duty to submit to you the seventh annual report of the school which has been under my supervision during the past six months.

TABLE NO. 1.

Number of Boys registered during the year.....	262
“ who have left the School.....	88
“ Present attendance.....	172

TABLE NO. 2.

Number of Boys admitted during the year.....	115
“ ignorant of the alphabet.....	9
“ commenced primer.....	26
“ “ first reader.....	33
“ “ second “ .....	23
“ “ third “ .....	16
“ “ fourth “ .....	6
“ who had studied arithmetic.....	16
“ “ “ geography .....	12

### WRITING.

“ who could write well.....	1
“ “ “ simple sentences only.....	12
“ “ “ their names “ .....	27

TABLE NO. 3.

*Shows the Attainments of 88 Boys who have left the School.*

Number reading in primers.....	2
“ “ first reader.....	4
“ “ second “ .....	28
“ “ third “ .....	34
“ “ fourth “ .....	20

## DAVIES' PRACTICAL ARITHMETIC.

“ who had completed the arithmetic.....	1
“ “ advanced to interest.....	4
“ “ “ fractions.....	10
“ who were in fundamental rules.....	6
“ studying intellectual arithmetic.....	31
“ “ geography.....	42

## WRITING.

“ who could write well.....	27
“ “ “ simple sentences only.....	38
“ “ “ their names only.....	10

## TABLE NO. 4.

*Shows the present Attainments of 172 Boys now in connection with the School.*

Number learning the alphabet.....	2
“ reading in primer.....	22
“ “ first reader.....	34
“ “ second “ .....	54
“ “ third “ .....	40
“ “ fourth “ .....	20

## DAVIES' PRACTICAL ARITHMETIC.

“ advanced to cube root.....	1
“ “ analysis.....	3
“ “ fractions .....	10
“ in fundamental rules.....	8
“ studying intellectual arithmetic.....	40
“ “ primary “ .....	27
“ “ geography.....	32
“ “ history.....	19

## WRITING.

“ who can write well.....	36
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“	“	“	simple sentences only.....	31
“	“	“	their names only.....	46

TABLE NO. 5.

*Shows the present Attainments of Boys contrasted with the same when they entered the School.*

Number promoted from alphabet to primer.....	14
“ “ “ first reader.....	9
“ “ primer “ “ .....	27
“ “ “ second “ .....	12
“ “ first reader “ “ .....	45
“ “ “ third “ .....	6
“ “ second reader to third reader...	36
“ “ “ “ fourth “ ...	3
“ “ third “ “ “ ...	20
“ “ primary arithmetic.....	41
“ “ intellectual “ .....	39
“ “ practical “ .....	16
“ “ geography.....	30
“ “ history .....	19
“ “ writing.....	68

Spelling and defining is uniformly practiced in connection with the reading lesson or as a separate exercise.

Our school continues to be divided into three divisions. the pupils in the several divisions uniformly reciting to their respective teachers. The first division is composed of the most advanced pupils, who receive instruction in reading, orthography, writing, geography, history, mental and written arithmetic.

In the second division, the boys receive instruction in reading, orthography, writing, primary and intellectual arithmetic.

The third division is composed of those boys who have acquired the least proficiency in their studies; and according to their attainment, are taught the alphabet, read in primer and first reader, and are taught writing or printing on slates.

Since my connection with the school, which began Oct. 1st,

1862, 53 boys have entered. And, although several of them are twelve years old and upwards, only six were qualified to enter the first division. Very few on entering are able to read in anything higher than second reader, while the majority commence in primer and first reader. Many of the boys placed in these classes say they have read in second and third reader, but they have been so long absent from school that they have forgotten much they had once learned.

The histories of the most of these boys show that they began their downward course by playing truant from school. And as they continued to frequent the schools of folly and vice, their minds have become pregnant with that which is subversive to all true education, until in not a few instances, they come to us with mental and moral faculties, inverted eager to learn those things and follow those pursuits which are sure to lead to an ignominious end. Hence the first task we find to perform is to endeavor to turn back the tide of evil on which they are drifting, and to inspire in them a love of what is true, orderly and honorable. And here we are obliged to begin with the lowest ultimates of life, by teaching them to be clean and tidy in their personal appearance and respectful and courteous in their address. We often contrast to them the positions which men of education and moral worth occupy, with the standing of the illiterate and degraded ; and endeavor to convince them that they can obtain the one as well as to accept the other. And when once we succeed in accomplishing our end, I have never seen during the ten years I have spent in the school room, more determined effort put forth by any pupils ; but as a boy becomes interested in obtaining an education, his deportment generally begins to improve, and soon he goes out from us, and his place is filled with new candidates, unaccustomed perchance, to the restraints which good order imposes, and uninterested in intellectual and moral culture. From this fact our school can never attain a standard commensurate with labor bestowed.

In the report of the Superintendent of Public Schools in the city of Chicago, for 1862, he says :



“There are in the city over 3000 children between the ages of five and fifteen, who are constant and punctual in their attendance upon the various schools of poverty and crime.”

When it is considered that the most of our boys come to us from the schools above referred to, and that the most of them remain under our instruction but a limited period of time, it will not be expected that they will go out from the school possessing any but the most ordinary scholastic attainments.

It is impossible for us to fully meet the wants of all our pupils without multiplying our classes to an unlimited number; for they enter at all times of the year, and at all stages of advancement. Frequently boys enter who can read very well, but have little or no knowledge of arithmetic or geography; we therefore place them in that class best calculated to meet their general wants, and give them such special instruction as time and circumstances will allow.

I endeavor continually to teach the boys the necessity of forming correct habit of thought, frequently propounding questions to them which they are unable to answer, and allow them until the next day for the solution; and adopt various other methods to draw out their own ideas on the subject under consideration.

In governing the school I am greatly indebted to the superintendent for the promptness and efficiency with which he meets the cases which arise for discipline. By his valuable aid in this respect a public sentiment is created in the school that no misdemeanors will be tolerated; and it is very seldom that a boy manifests a disposition to violate regulations established.

It is my constant endeavor also to impress upon the minds of the boys the necessity of self control, and frequently assure them that this institution is not established to punish them for crime, but to relieve them from the temptations to which they have heretofore been exposed, and to aid them in the indispensable work of self restraint; and, that if they fail in accomplishing this, they will ever find law to assume to do that which they neglect to do themselves.

Every day's experience convinces me that a vast amount of encouragement and sympathy is required to inspire in these unfortunate boys the love of doing right for its own sake, and that this can be accomplished only by earnestly laboring in a spirit of love, to fill their minds with wholesome and practical truths, trusting in a kind Providence to perfect that which we may be humble instrument in begining.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. CURTIS, *Principal.*

## PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

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*To the Board of Guardians of the Chicago Reform School:*

GENTLEMEN :—It affords me great pleasure to announce that the health of the inmates of the School is at present good, and that the Hospital is entirely free from sick patients.

During the year but few cases of severe disease occurred. The principal were: two cases of pneumonia, one of pleurisy, one of congestion of the brain, four of typhoid fever, and one of dysentery, all of which, under medical treatment, recovered without accident. I am happy to report that no death occurred during the year.

During the early part of winter I carefully re-vaccinated all the boys, and although small pox prevailed in the vicinity, none appeared in the school. There have been no epidemic or contagious diseases.

The vigorous health which the school has enjoyed during the year is worthy of particular notice. This was mainly due to the care and watchfulness of your Superintendent in carrying out wise and efficient sanitary regulations in all the details of the boys daily life. These efforts, under the Divine blessing, have been crowned with the most excellent results. I would congratulate the Board on what has been attained in a sanitary point of view. It is a fact worthy to be recorded, that but one of the inmates of the school has died in the past three years.

In conclusion, I would bear my testimony to the excellent management and admirable working of the School, in all its details, and rejoice with you, that notwithstanding adversity, this institution is steadily growing and abounding in usefulness.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH P. ROSS, M. D.

Chicago, April 1st, 1863.

## LETTERS

FROM PARTIES WITH WHOM BOYS WHO HAVE GONE OUT FROM  
THE SCHOOL ARE LIVING.

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FEBRUARY 15th, 1863.

DEAR SIR :—

We were very much pleased to have you enquire respecting F——. He is still with us, and we look upon him as our own. He is very fond of us and we of him. We send him regularly to school, and to an evening writing school besides. He is growing up a fine stout boy, and speaks with affectionate fondness of the School and old companions he left behind him. I shall put him to some good trade, and do the best in my power for him. If you want any further information, shall be glad to give it you. He is a *good boy*, and he calls us father and mother; he would like to hear about his brother and sister. We should not like to part with him; he has a good home and is happy with us.

Yours, respectfully,

R—— H——.

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FOURTH MONTH, 12th, 1862.

ERIE ND PERKINS :

Tommy gives good satisfaction, he is so quiet, active and agreeable in his manners. I asked him if he wished me to communicate anything for him. He says no, only say he wishes to stay; we like him exceedingly. He has not needed even reproving so far; is as yielding and gentle as though I were his mother; is all I could wish; an excellent boy and much loved and respected; his whole aim is to please. He is now attending school.

Most respectfully,

M—— M—— G——.

FEBRUARY 21st, 1862.

DEAR SIR:—

I write to let you know how P—— gets along. I like him well, have no trouble with him. He is honest, trusty and faithful; think he is making good progress in his studies, however will let him tell his own story in a letter enclosed.

Respectfully, yours,

J—— C—— P——.

SEPTEMBER 2nd, 1862.

DEAR BROTHER PERKINS:—

John is well and has done very well since he has been with us. We are satisfied with him thus far, and I hope he may make a useful and respectable young man. I think John felt a good deal lonely when he first came here, and our hot weather has been hard on us, and I fancy must have been so to him, but he has scarcely complained at all. John attends the Sabbath School regularly. In three or four weeks we expect he will begin to attend our District School.

I have asked John what word he wished to send, but he does not seem to have any thing to ask, only that you will send one of the boys down here soon as you can to keep him company. He has undoubtedly been quite lonely, but he has certainly borne it with a manly spirit.

Truly, yours,

O—— M——.

JULY, 3rd, 1862.

DEAR SIR:—

Mr. C—— is absent for the present week, and I write for the purpose of saying that we are very much pleased with L. He is tractable, industrious and winning; he says he is very happy; that he would like to know where his brother is, and says that he will try hard to learn to write, that he may send you a letter.

Very truly, yours,

M—— J—— C——.

AUGUST 30th, 1862.

DEAR SIR:—

As regards M——, there never was a boy in my employ that I remember of, that has done so well as M—— in every respect; an industrious, well behaved young man.

Truly, yours,

\*J—— P——.

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\*The person who writes this letter employs about one hundred men and boys constantly.

NOVEMBER 1st, 1862.

SIR:—

This is to certify that K—— has been in my employ for the last five or six months, and during that time he has conducted himself well. He is steady and faithful to his work, as well as pleasant in his bearing towards others. I would say that I am well satisfied with him.

W—— B——.

OCTOBER 4th, 1862.

DEAR SIR:—

Robert is a good boy, and very handy and willing. I have scarcely seen a single instance to find fault with him, and trust he will continue.

Yours, very truly,  
W—— L——.

JANUARY 1st, 1863.

DEAR SIR:—

Yours of February 2nd came to hand while I was on picket duty. I embrace the earliest opportunity to answer your enquiry. P— S— was taken prisoner at the late battle and has not been heard of since. T— looks very well physically and is a good soldier. I have also G— B— in my company. Soldier life appears to agree with him particularly. At Perryville he was behind with a wagon train as guard. At Stone River he was perfectly elated at the opportunity to fire at the rebels, and oblivious to danger. He loaded and fired as if he had been on dress parade. His health is first rate and he has endured, and can now endure hardships which older men cannot stand. He speaks often of you. \* \* \* \* \*

Ever your friend,  
J—— A—— B——.

JANUARY 24th, 1862.

DEAR BRO. PERKINS —

On my return to-day I received your very welcome letter. You do not need to have me tell you how glad I was to hear from you and the boys. \* \* \* \* \* Richard has been promoted to the rank of corporal. He is a fine fellow, and is quite popular. I see him every day and like him very much.  
\* \* \* \* \*

Your sincere friend,  
E—— A——.

JUNE 10th, 1862.

MR. PERKINS:—

I take the earliest opportunity to answer your letter of May 23d. \* \* \* \* We like Frank very well, rather better than we thought we should when he first came. He has grown so you would hardly know him. He has been to District School six months since he has been here; does not learn very fast, but likes the farm, horses, cows and chickens. He says he is perfectly contented with his home; he is well, has not been ill since he came here.

Yours, truly, J—— W—— V——.

NOVEMBER 11th, 1862.

DEAR SIR:—

The two boys we have are doing splendidly, seem very well contented, enjoying good health. I think they are highly pleased with their pursuit and place. We feel as yet that you have made a good selection for us. We will soon send them to school and endeavor to have them improve their time. They take as much interest in affairs about home as most *sons* would. We gave G— a fine calf, and R— a pig, to encourage them. We want to make men of them, which I think we can. We have had no occasion to use harsh words with either, kind persuasion seems to suit. They wish me to tell you that they would like to see you out here. G— has great regard for you, and would like to know whether you have heard anything about his father.

Respectfully, yours, F—— C——.

MARCH 16th, 1863.

DEAR SIR:—

In regard to James, he is quite well, and I believe well pleased with his situation. He attended school last winter, and is now getting very useful. He is doing well and giving general satisfaction. I find him quite faithful, and think him likely to turn out well.

Yours, truly, A—— M——.

OCTOBER 4th, 1862.

MR. PERKINS:—

The deportment and character of the bearer C— has been good since he has been in our employ. He is industrious and trusty.

Respectfully, yours, B—— &amp; B——.

## LETTERS FROM BOYS.

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MARCH 15th, 1863.

DEAR FRIEND :—

I have a good place and am contented and happy. I have been to school two winters, and work on the farm. I am going to Sabbath school. I wish some of the boys here were in the Reform School and some of your boys were here. Give my love to all the boys.

Yours, truly,  
P—— B——.

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FEBRUARY 17th, 1863.

MY DEAR SIR :—

For the first day of the year I embrace the present opportunity to inform you that I am enjoying excellent health ever since I came to Mr. W—'s house. I am treated exactly like his own boys in every respect, and according to all appearance, I will get my share when I become of age. I think we all ought to try and make this the best year of our lives. I will try to make it so. I was sorry to hear that the new building was burnt down. I would like to know how it caught on fire. Wishing you and the boys a happy New Year,

I am, your obedient servant,  
F—— K——.

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MARCH 16th, 1863.

DEAR SIR :—

You mention in your letter to M— that you wish me to write you a few lines. I have just stopped attending school for this winter. My brother and myself have been at the same school all winter. We have commenced our summer



work. I like farming very well. My brother has left Mr. R— and gone to live with a neighbor of his. I have been very well, have not been in bed sick but one day. As it is quite late I must bring my short letter to a close. I would like to hear from you when you have leisure.

Yours, truly,  
J—— S——.

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JANUARY 28th, 1863.

DEAR SIR:—

I now take the opportunity to tell you how I am. I am at present in the hospital at this place, minus one leg. It was carried away by a six pound shot at a skirmish about 14 miles from here last Wednesday. Tell the boys that they must not think that I am as well off as I was in the School in Chicago. Give my best respects to the teachers of the School and all connected with it.

Good bye,  
D——.

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MARCH 28th, 1862.

MY DEAR FRIEND:

I thought I would write a few lines to you to let you know how and where I am, and that your letter was received some time ago. We are now encamped by Fortress Monroe, near Hampton. We are now in Hamilton's Division. The little Monitor is laying here by us. I have been in the Fort; it seems to me that all the secesh in the world could not take it unless they were to work it so as to starve our forces. I tell you Mr. Perkins, there is something to be done pretty soon. We expect every moment to have orders to go forward; we have left all our things in Alexandria except one change of under-clothing and a blanket. The weather is very warm; the grass is green, and the woods the same. You likely have cold weather yet in Illinois. I hope when I write the next time to you I can give a good account of ourselves, and begin my letter with *Richmond*. I was very glad to receive your welcome letter. I hope you will write again when you have an opportunity. I do not mean every time I write to you, for you are too busy, but every once in a while. My best respects to you and your family, and to all the officers and boys in the School.

Yours truly,  
P—— G——.

APRIL 25th, 1862.

MY DEAR FRIEND:—

I received your letter in due time, and it has been a source of great pleasure to me. I thought you had forgotten me because you did not write, but I was glad to hear from you again, and know that you had not forgotten me. I should be glad to hear from the boys in the school. I have heard from my father in California; he is doing well; he is coming out here this year and you may be sure I will be happy to see him, and I would be happy to see you also. Let me know all about the school in your next letter, and send me some of the songs you sing.

Yours, truly,  
M—— G——.

APRIL 7th, 1862.

DEAR SIR:—

I would like to know how all the boys are getting along, and also how all the officers are. Since I left home I have been in two actions; the capturing of Forts Henry and Donelson. At the taking of Fort Henry I was on board the Essex. Our boiler burst and scalded about thirty men. Out of the scalded sixteen are dead, including the two pilots and two soldiers, but luckily I was not hurt in the least. The Essex being disabled I was transferred to the Pittsburg, and was in the fight at Fort Donelson. After it was taken by our troops my left eye was so very sore I had to come to this hospital. I would be very much obliged if you would inform me where my mother lives, as I do not know.

Yours, &c., &c.,  
D—— D——.

PRAIRIE HOME, February 17th, 1863.

DEAR SIR:—

I am getting along finely; I am attending school this winter and am getting along well in my studies; am almost through Davies Arithmetic; have been to school more this winter than all the time I was with Mr. W—. I like to live in the country a great deal better than I did in the city. I have all I want to eat and drink and wear, and that is all one needs these hard times. They all say that I grow like a weed; I am five feet six.

Yours, respectfully,  
G—— P—— L——

FEBRUARY 23d, 1863.

MY DEAR FRIEND:—

I received your letter of the 16th, and have taken the first opportunity to answer it. Words cannot explain with what pleasure I received your kind letter, and I sincerely thank you for your kindness and good wishes towards me. If ever I visit Chicago again I shall surely call and see you and thank you in person for your kindness to me, and the interest you take in my future welfare. I received a letter from my Sunday school teacher telling me of the death of your little boy. I felt sorry when I heard of it, for you may be well assured that I loved him dearly. When I thought of the place he had gone to I wished that I had gone there when I was as innocent as he was. I am getting along pretty well at present, but I expect I shall soon be leaving here, as my father is going to take an office and follow his profession. He wishes me to leave and learn the drug business. If I leave before another month I will let you know. I hope that this will find you all well; give my respects to all the officers. I hope I shall soon hear from you again.

Yours, truly,  
C.—— D——.

DEAR SIR:—

I have looked for a letter from you for a long time, but as I did not get one I thought I would write one to you to let you know where I am, and how I have been getting along. \*\* We marched from Bowling Green to Nashville; there I met with an accident. I was sitting down one day cleaning my gun, when from an explosion of the tube of the gun, I am sorry to say, I lost one of my eyes. I was sick in the hospital for six weeks; I had laid up quite a sum of money, about a hundred dollars, but had to use it all while I was sick. I cannot write much this time. I wanted to let you know my whereabouts so you could write to me. Please write to me as soon as you can, I shall be so glad to hear from you again. Give my best respects to the officers. I remain yours, respectfully,  
W—— E——.

MARCH 13th, 1863.

DEAR FRIEND:—

I take the present opportunity to inform you how I am, where I am, and how I like soldiering. I have seen some pretty hard times, but then I like it pretty well for all that.

When we started on the march for the Hatchie I began to feel that soldiering was not as nice as I thought it was. We had to walk fifteen or twenty miles a day, wet or dry, with our knapsacks strapped on our backs, which made my feet and shoulders kind of sore, but I have got used to that kind of business, and now I can do as well as any of them. I saw J— F— in Memphis; also saw J— W— and O— B— at Arkansas Post. O— B— has been in two battles, the last one at Shiloh, one of the hardest of the war. At Arkansas Post, when they surrendered, I got over the breastworks with the rebels, when the regiment moved to the other side of the fort, and when I started to go back to the regiment it was gone, and I could not find it for two days, so I staid with O— B— until the regiment came back: W— S— and P— are well and all right. The general opinion down here is that the rebels are clearing out of Vicksburg. No more at present.  
J—— C——.













